

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 OES-06 SSO-00 NSCE-00

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DRAFTED BY IO/SCT:JPTREVITHICK

APPROVED BY IO - DR. MOREY

OES/ENP/EN - DR. KING

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY OSLO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:UNEP, PINT, AS

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN CANDIDACY FOR UNEP EXECUTIVE DIRECTORSHIP

REF: USUN 2838

1. WE BELIEVE THAT A WEO GROUP MEETING AT THIS STAGE ON QUESTION OF CANDIDATES FOR UNEP EXECUTIVE DIRECTORSHIP WOULD BE FUTILE, IF OBJECTIVE IS TO CRYSTALLIZE WEO POSITION ON COMMON CANDIDATE. NET RESULT, IN OUR VIEW, CAN ONLY BE TO HURT MCMICHAELS ULTIMATE CHANCES OF ACHIEVING, IF NOT FULL, AT LEAST SOME MEASURE OF WEO SUPPORT.

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2. REASON FOR OUR POSITION LIES IN OUR UNCERTAINTY AT THIS STAGE OF STATUS OF COMPETING REAL OR REPORTED CANDIDACIES FROM OTHER REGIONS AND OTHER REGIONS' ATTITUDES ON UNEP TOP JOB. IN THIS SITUATION, US, IN VIEW OF COMPETITION WHICH ALREADY EXISTS WITHIN WEO, WOULD HAVE TO RESERVE ITS POSITION YET AGAIN, AND WE BELIEVE OTHER WEO'S ARE IN SAME POSITION. AUSTRALIAN MOVE AT THIS STAGE, THEREFORE, COULD ONLY WIND UP IN FURTHER INCONCLUSIVE DISCUSSION AT BEST. AT WORST, WE BELIEVE EFFORT TO FORCE WEO POSITION AT THIS STAGE COULD WELL MOVE OTHER WEO'S INTO OVERT OPPOSITION TO MCMICHAELS' CANDIDACY.

3. IN ANY EVENT, WEO MEETING THIS STAGE UNLIKELY PRODUCE RESULTS, SINCE MANY PRINCIPALS NOW PREOCCUPIED WITH ECOSOC IN GENEVA AND WILL BE UNABLE ATTEND WEO MEETING ON JULY 15, AND IN ALL LIKELIHOOD WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE UNTIL SOMETIME IN AUGUST. IF WEO MEETING NEVERTHELESS TAKES PLACE, WE HOPE AUSTRALIANS WILL MAKE THEIR PRESENTATION IN LOW KEY MAKING THEIR PRINCIPAL REASON FOR REVERTING TO ISSUE AT THIS TIME THEIR ANNOUNCED INTENT (FINAL PARA REFTEL) TO SCOUT VIABILITY MCMICHAELS CANDIDATURE IN OTHER GROUPS.

4. MISSION IN ITS DISCRETION MAY USE FOREGOING RESPONDING TO ANY FURTHER AUSTRALIAN QUERIES ON THIS SUBJECT. FYI. AS BETWEEN TWO WEO COMPETING CANDIDATES, GJAEREVOLL OF NORWAY AND MCMICHAELS OF AUSTRALIA, WE BELIEVE MCMICHAELS, BECAUSE OF HIS LONG ASSOCIATION WITH UNEP AFFAIRS FROM VERY BEGINNING AND GENERALLY CONSTRUCTIVE PARTICIPATION IN UNEP AFFAIRS, TOGETHER WITH HIS DEMONSTRATED MANAGEMENT ABILITIES AS HEAD OF A MAJOR NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM, IS BY FAR THE BEST QUALIFIED. END FYI.

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